

Cherrie on Trinidad Birds.¹—As the result of a month's collecting, in March, 1907, in which time 300 specimens, representing 96 species, were collected by him, Mr. Cherrie records five species as new to the list of Trinidad birds. One of these species, *Chatura cinereicauda*, is erroneously given, having been previously collected and recorded by Mr. F. M. Chapman. Furthermore, the specimens on which the latter record is based, and with which Mr. Cherrie's bird will doubtless be found to agree, prove to be not the true *cinereicauda* but a new species which Dr. Hellmayr has recently described as *Chatura chapmani*.

Of the remaining four species, two had previously been taken on the small island of Monos, only a few hundred yards from Trinidad and, as Mr. Cherrie remarks, so close to the larger island that birds of the weakest flight might readily pass back and forth.

Catharus melpomene costaricensis and *Leptopogon superciliaris*, represent genera as well as species entirely new to Trinidad, and have never been taken on the neighboring small islands.

The Trinidad *Megarhynchus* which Mr. Cherrie recently proposed to call *M. pitangua parvirostris* is now considered doubtfully separable, on account of the variation in size of bill found among the continental birds.

This list is annotated with remarks on abundance, and exact localities and dates of many specimens are given. The colors of the changeable parts of many species are recorded, and there are also interesting notes on habits, song and nesting.—W. DEW. M.

☞ **Bangs 'On Certain Costa Rican Birds.'**²—In this paper, based mainly on collections made by C. F. Underwood, the following seven new forms are described: *Trogon underwoodi*, *Pachyrhamphus versicolor costaricensis*, *Myiobius xanthopygus auratus*, *Troglodytes ochracea ligca*, *Myioborus aurantiacus acceptus*, *Phlogothraupis sanguinolenta aprica* and *Emberizoides sphenura lucaris*.

Mr. Bangs remarks that the characters of several of these forms have already been pointed out by Ridgway in his 'Birds of North and Middle America,' and more ample material has convinced the describer of the desirability of providing them with names.

Additional specimens of *Chlorospingus zeledoni* and *Thryorchilus ridgwayi* confirm the standing of these local species. Cassin's name *bryanti* is taken up for the Costa Rican subspecies of *Spinus xanthogaster*, which of late years has not been recognized as distinct, and a hummingbird, *Lophornis delatirii*, is recorded for the first time from Costa Rica.

Mr. Bangs' material also enables him to clear up the confusion that has existed concerning the Costa Rican swifts. In addition to *C. gaumeri* and

¹ On a Second Small Collection of Birds from the Island of Trinidad. By George K. Cherrie. Science Bulletin, Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Vol. I, No. 13. Published March, 1908.

² On Certain Costa Rican Birds. By Outram Bangs. Proceedings of the New England Zoological Club, Vol. IV, pp. 23-35. March 19, 1908.

C. vauri, two distinct species of *Chatura* are recognized, *C. cinereiventris phaeopygos* and *C. spinicauda fumosa*.—W. DEW. M.

'**Cassinia.**'—'Cassinia, A Bird Annual,'¹ "devoted to the ornithology of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware," comprises seven papers, followed by an 'Abstract of Proceedings,' a bibliography (including (1) ornithological papers for 1907 by members of the Club, and (2) additional papers relating to the birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware), a list of the members of the Club, and an index. The place of honor is accorded to Witmer Stone's interesting biographical sketch of Adolphus L. Heermann, M. D., who was born, it is supposed, in South Carolina in 1818, and who died at San Antonio, Texas, September 2, 1865. Dr. Heermann is well known as one of the naturalists of the Pacific Railroad Surveys, he having been surgeon and naturalist to Lieutenant R. S. Williamson's expedition, in 1853-54. Previously Heermann had made a large collection of birds in California, and is further known to bird students through the names of two species of California birds, a gull and a sparrow, dedicated to him by Cassin. Mr. Stone has been unable to present a very detailed or connected history of his life, but the facts here brought together are most welcome. The accompanying portrait of Heermann is from a daguerreotype and represents him as attired on one of his western expeditions. The titles of the other papers are: 'Some Birds of Brown's Mills, N. J.,' by Cornelius Weygant; 'Type Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey,' by Spencer Trotter,—an interesting list, with comment, of species first made known from birds obtained in this region; 'Bird Life of the Indian River Country of Delaware,' by Charles J. Pennock; 'A Pensauken Diary,' by Chreswell J. Hunt (with two half-tone plates); 'Report on the Spring Migration of 1907,' compiled by Witmer Stone (pp. 54-79). The average attendance at the sixteen meetings of the Club held during the year was 24, with a maximum attendance on one or more occasions of 51.—J. A. A.

Beebe on the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds.²—The investigations here reported relate to the Scarlet Tanager and the Bobolink. Birds of each species in full nuptial plumage and still in the height of vocal and physical conditions were placed in small cages in a quiet room, and the supply of light gradually cut off and the amount of food increased. When the time for the autumnal moult arrived not a single feather was shed. "In brief, the birds skipped the fall moult entirely and appeared to suffer no inconvenience whatever as a result." They showed only the symptoms of inactivity produced by excessive fatness; early in the experiment they

¹ Cassinia, A Bird Annual. Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club of Philadelphia, 1907. Issued March, 1908. Svo, pp. 98, and 3 half-tone plates. Price, 50 cents.

² Preliminary Report on an Investigation of the Seasonal Changes of Color in Birds. By C. William Beebe. American Naturalist, Vol. XLII, Jan. 1908, pp. 34-38.